AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing data, comprising the steps of:

creating a parameter file that identifies database fields;

establishing a link with at least one database;

importing data from fields in the database that are identified in the parameter file;

grouping the imported data into at least one category;

storing the imported data as records in at least one internal database;

linking the imported data and/or grouping to corresponding earlier stored records and/or groupings, respectively;

selecting at least one category for viewing;

retrieving the records from the selected categories; and

displaying statistical information about the retrieved records by the selected categories in a spreadsheet user interface.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the imported data is linked to corresponding imported data by a tight link.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the imported data is linked to corresponding imported data by a tight link that corresponds to an access number and/or a patent number.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the groupings of the data are chosen by the user.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the groupings are listed in categories named by the user.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein data imported from at least one database provides information about each of the patents or documents cited for a particular patent or group of patents.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising a plurality of internal databases that each stores a predetermined category of imported data.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a said parameter file is created, prior to importation of data, which contains various categories of bibliographic data for an individual record.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data is displayed in a spreadsheet format in accordance with a user's preference selection.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the displayed data can be manipulated by a user in order to view the data most relevant to the user's needs.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the imported data pertains to patents.

13.   (Currently Amended) A system for acquiring and presenting data, comprising:

a computer that establishes a link with a database and imports data from fields in the database that are identified in a parameter file,

a memory that stores the imported data in at least one grouping that corresponds to a designated category of data;

an internal parameter that links corresponding data with each other to form a record of data;

a selection component that allows a user to select particular data of a record and the format of the data for display; and

a presentation device that displays statistical information about the selected data in a spreadsheet user interface by designated category.

14.   (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the imported data is bibliographic data related to patents.

15.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the data is linked by the internal parameter according to access number and/or patent number.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein data may be marked by the user with an indication of priority.

19.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the data imported includes the number of references cited to a patent.

20.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium containing a program which executes the following steps:

creating a parameter file that identifies database fields;

establishing a link with at least one database;

importing data from fields in the database that are identified in the parameter file;

grouping the imported data into at least one category;

storing the imported data as records in at least one internal database;

linking the imported data to corresponding earlier stored records and/or groupings; and

in response to selection of at least one group for viewing, retrieving the

records from the selected group and displaying statistical information about the

records by the selected group in a spreadsheet user interface.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further including the

steps of:

detecting user selection of a cell in said spreadsheet user interface that

contains a statistic about the retrieval records; and

in response to said selection, displaying citation information about the patents

represented by said statistic.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said

spreadsheet user interface includes a column of descriptions of categories in

respective rows.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said

statistical information comprises the number of patents in a category represented in

a row or column of the spread sheet user interface.

24.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said statistical

information comprises the number of patents in a category represented in a row or

column of the spread sheet user interface.

25.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein each category corresponds to a field of said internal database.

26.   (New) The system of claim 13, wherein said designated category comprises a field of the database.